

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 SAJ-01 IO-03 L-01 /042 W

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P 281917Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7972

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4604

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: MEXICAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS US

REF: A. MEXICO 4580; B. STATE 109215

FERNANDO GUTIERREZ, UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR, SAW ME AGAIN AT HOME LAST NIGHT AT HIS REQUEST. HE HAD REPORTED TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON OUR CONVERSATION TELLING HIM FRANKLY OUR CONCERNS RE THE STRIDENCY OF MEXICAN RHETORIC (INCLUDING L.E.A.'S*). HE SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN VERY UNDERSTANDING AND WISHED TO REASSURE US THAT HE WOULD KEEP IN MIND THE ADVISABILITY OF SOMEWHAT GREATER DISCRETION IN MEXICAN SPEECH-MAKING. SIMILARLY HE WOULD KEEP IN MIND OUR CONCERNS RE CONFRONTATIONS AT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OVER CERDS. ECHEVERRIA WAS CONSIDERING THE ADVISABILITY OF INSTRUCTING MEXICAN DELEGATIONS IN EACH CASE TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES WITH AMERICAN DELEGATIONS IN ORDER TO WORK OUR SUITABLE COMPROMISES IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. HE SAID WE SHOULD NOT FORGET, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT CONSIDERED IT AN ELEMENT OF MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY TO HAVE SOME ALLUSION TO CERDS INCLUDED IN ALL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS POSSIBLE.

2. GUTIERREZ IS TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON ON MONDAY, JUNE 2, AND WILL BE THERE UNTIL THURSDAY OR FRIDAY. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD AGREED WITH HIS SUGGESTION THAT HE TAKE
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ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON TO HAVE SOME

DIRECT CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FOR FRANK AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSION OF MEXICAN INTERNAL SITUATION. I HAVE SINCE COMMUNICATED TO HIM THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM LUERS AND PERHAPS OTHERS WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM FOR LUNCH OR AT SOME OTHER CONVENIENT MOMENT. HE STRESSED AGAIN THAT THE PRESIDENT DESIRED THAT NEITHER AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI NOR SECRETARY RABASA KNOW OF HIS CALL AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS DID NOT WISH TO RUFFLE THEIR FEATHERS. (IF THIS CHANNEL IS TO BE KEPT OPEN AND COOPERATIVE, THIS REQUEST MUST BE RESPECTED*)

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT ECHEVERRIA (OR IN FACT MEXICAN DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES) TO BECOME SUDDENLY DOCILE, TACITURN AND UNEMOTIONAL SPEAKER. AFTER ALL HE IS A VERY HIGH PITCHED PERSON AND IS THINKING PRIMARILY OF HIS OWN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. NEVERTHELESS THE FACT THAT HE HAS SENT GUTIERREZ TO SEE ME TWICE IN ONE DAY INDICATES CONSIDERABLE AWARENESS OF OUR SENSITIVITIES AND WE MAY HOPE TO SEE SOME ELEMENTS OF RESTRAINT ON HIS PART IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMITY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO04604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750186-0837
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750513/aaaaalxp.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 4580, 75 STATE 109215
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEXICAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS US
TAGS: PFOR, MX, US, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006